

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 08332 041631Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 /073 W

----- 094617

R 041223Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 8332

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: BASQUE STV HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS

REF: MADRID 7951

SUMMARY: THE STV (BASQUE LABOR UNION) CONGRESS TOOK PLACE WITHOUT GOVT HARRASSMENT, BEFORE AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF FOREIGN LABOR GUEST, INCLUDING THE AFL-CIO'S GLENN WATTS AND MIKE BOGGS. IT SERVED ADMIRABLY TO LAUNCH THE STV INTO THE POST-FRANCO ERA, AND NAILED DOWN THE LEGITMACY OF THE TRADITIONAL STV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 08332 041631Z

FACTION. THERE WAS A VERY STRONG OVERTONE OF "BASQUE SOLIDARITY"

THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BASQUE STV (SOLIDARITY OF WORKERS) HELD ITS THIRD CONGRESS IN EIBAR, GUIPUZCOA, OCTOBER 30-31, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF BOTH NOSTALGIA AND HIGH HOPES FOR THE FUTURE. ATTENDED BY SOME 1000 DELEGATES AND AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF FOREIGN LABOR GUESTS, THE CONGRESS MARKED THE EMERGENCE OF THE STV FROM CLANDESTINITY AFTER MORE THAN FORTY YEARS. DESPITE CONTINUING TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES IN GUIPUZCOA PROVINCE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE RECENT ETA ASSASSINATIONS, THERE WAS NO GOVT HARRASSMENT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF ANY SECURITY FORCES PRESENCE WAS THE UNOBSTRUSIVE ATTENDANCE OF THE THREE PLAINCLOTHES POLICE. MADRID-BASED LABATTS FROM FRANCE, UK, USA, AND WEST GERMANY WERE PRESENT AS OBSERVERS.

2. THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESSES WERE DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT MANU ROBLES ARANGUIZ, SECRETARY GENERAL ALFONSO ECHEVERRIA, AND VICE PRESIDENT JOSE MANUEL LEUNDA. THE 83-YEAR OLD ROBLES, WHO STILL LIVES IN EXILE IN BAYONNE, FRANCE, EVOKED AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE AS HE STATED THAT THE BASQUE PROVINCES SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY UNDER THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION. ECHEVERRIA EMPHASIZED THAT IN THIS NEW ERA, THE FRANCO TIMES MUST BE FORGOTTEN AND THE STV MUST UPDATE ITSELF IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS MISSION AS THE TRADITIONAL UNION OF THE BASQUES. THE STV WOULD OPEN ITS DOORS TO ALL WORKERS IRRESPECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION, REMAINING INDEPENDENT BUT NOT APOLITICAL. IT WOULD SUPPORT BASQUE IDEOLOGY AND SHOULD BECOME "ONE OF THE STRONG PILLARS OF BASQUE POLITICS." ECHEVERRIA ALSO LINED THE STV UP BEHIND THE PRINCIPLE OF A PLURALISTIC RATHER THAN A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT IN SPAIN. IN THE CLOSING SPEECH, HEIR-APPARENT LEUNDA SET CONSOLIDATION AS THE STV'S MOST PRESSING GOAL, AND "REAFFIRMED" THE UNION'S EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LINKS. ALL THREE SPEAKERS ATTACKED THE DISSIDENT YOUNG TURK GROUP (NOT PRESENT) AND ACCUSED IT OF BEING A COMPANY UNION.

3. THE INT'L LABOR DELEGATION INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICFTU (ASST SEC GEN JOHNNY VANDERVEKEN), WCL(ASST SEC GEN JOSE GONZALEZ), ETUC (ASST SEC GEN SVEN STERNER), AND FEM (SEC GEN GUNTER KOPKE). SIX INT'L TRADE SECRETARIATS WERE ALSO REPRESENTED: TEXTILE (SEC GEN CHARLES FORD), METALWORKERS (CARLOS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 08332 041631Z

PARDO, MADRID), AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (JOSE VARGAS), PTTI (GLENN WATTS, AFL-CIO), FIET (MARC BLONDEL), AND FOOD WORKERS (HORST STATIUS). THERE WERE ALSO SEVEN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FROM FRANCE (CFDT: GUY GOUYET, PIERRE EVAIN; FO: ANTOINE LAVAL), ITALY (INT'L DEPT REPRESENTATIVES FROM CGIL, CISL, UIL), BELGIUM (CSC: ANDRE MAILLARD), HOLLAND (FNV: W. SPITT, MRS. P. TEGELAR), ISRAEL (HISTRADUT: E. HALEVY), GREECE (CGT: LUKAS IANOPOULOS) AND USA (AFL-CIO: GLENN WATTS, MIKE BOGGS).

4. SPEAKING FOR THE ICFTU'S "50 MILLION WORKERS," VANDERVEKEN SAID THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE ON TRADE UNION FREEDOM. IF SPAIN WANTED TO JOIN THE FREE WORLD, IT MUST RESPECT DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PRINCIPLES, GLENN WATTS, ON BEHALF OF GEORGE MEANY AND AFL-CIO'S 14.5 MILLION MEMBERS, VOICED AMERICAN LABOR'S SOLIDARITY AND PLEDGED "OUR MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE STV UNDER A JUST AND DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT."

5. COMMENT. THE CONGRESS WAS PERHAPS MORE OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS DEMONSTRATION THAN A WORKING SESSION, AND IN THAT SENSE SERVED ADMIRABLY TO LAUNCH THE "NEW" STV INTO THE POST-FRANCO ERA. BOTH WATTS AND BOGGS WERE VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. WHILE THE CONGRESS DID NOTHING TO SOLVE THE STV INTERNAL SPLIT, IT CERTAINLY NAILED DOWN THE LEGITIMACY OF THE TRADITIONAL STV FACTION. THE FOREIGN, AND PARTICULARLY THE U.S. PRESENCE, WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. MANY SPEAKERS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, CATERED TO BASQUE SENTIMENTS (INDUCING THUNDEROUS AUDIENCE RESPONSE), AND THERE WAS A VERY STRONG OVERTONE OF "BASQUE SOLIDARITY" THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDINGS.
STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID08332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760412-0366
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761182/aaaacsuj.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 7951
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASQUE STV HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS
TAGS: ELAB, SP, STV, BASQUE LABOR UNION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006